

In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9 of the specification to read as follows.

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The central absorbent pad 12 has two flaps 24 and 24' extending laterally outward from the longitudinal side edges of the central absorbent pad 12 in a central portion thereof adjacent the lateral centerline. As shown in FIGURE 1 flaps 24 and 24' extend substantially along the lateral centerline 85. As used herein, the terminology "central portion" and "lateral centerline" refer generally to a region of the central absorbent pad 12 that is intended to be placed in a crotch portion of a wearer's undergarment. Thus, for some embodiments of the invention wherein the sanitary napkin is asymmetrical, such as in a product intended for overnight use, the central portion and lateral centerline may not be located in the exact geometric center of the central absorbent pad. While it is not necessary that the flaps be mirror images of one another they preferably are. Topsheet 14 forms one surface of flaps 24, 24' while backsheet 18 forms the other surface. In general, the flaps do not require a topsheet to enable them to function properly, but the use of a topsheet is preferred. Flap topsheet can be integral with the central absorbent body, as illustrated, or it can be an independent element; the former being preferred. All of the specific physical properties of the topsheet 14 previously described, apply to any flap topsheet that is used. There is, however, no requirement that the flap topsheet be the same material as the topsheet associated with the central absorbent pad. In one possible embodiment, the flap topsheet may be nonwoven material while the topsheet over the central absorbent pad is an apertured polymeric film. In the embodiment illustrated in Figure 2, backsheet 18 serves as a backsheet for flaps 24 and 24'. The flaps require a backsheet (or more generally, a liquid impervious materials) to enable them to function properly. The flap backsheet can be integral with the absorbent core liquid impervious surface or they can be independent elements. All of the specific physical properties of the backsheet 18 previously described apply to the flap backsheet.